

Subject: An open letter to the HOA Board

Dear Board,

As a member of the currently disbanded Bylaws and CC&Rs Committee I have been invited to a meeting at 7:00pm on Monday August 28th with you and:

"the people the current board believed that was to have been on the committee" [whatever that means!]

One of the purposes of this meeting is: "to discuss their [the Board's] thoughts about the CC&R revisions."

I believe that this is a very important meeting.

In order to modify the CC&Rs we need three-fourths of all owners to agree. In other words, 34 of the 45 owners need to vote yes.

For that to happen we need to pull together as a community as we never have before. We need to build a strong consensus about what is best for us.

My thought has always been that consensus are best built in the open through discussions where everyone has a voice. That is why every meeting (three) of the Bylaws and CC&Rs Committee that was held at my home was an open meeting. That cannot be said of Committee meetings held elsewhere.

That is also why I published for review and comment the Draft report of the Committee in January. It seems to me that if you want to build a consensus it is good to keep folks aware of what you are doing. For that action I was berated and belittled in public by the Committee chair at the Committee meeting on February 8, 2017. I have never received an apology for that incident, nor for a subsequent and similar incident at the Board meeting on February 21, 2017.

As I member of the Committee, I welcome the Board's input. But I welcome that input just the same as I do everyone else's. To the extent that the Board has a different point of view I am interested in having it communicated to all interested members at an open forum. It does us no good if the Committee changes its recommendations because of input from the Board if those changes are not supported by the members. We need to find out now, not later, what changes will be supported.

I want to remind the Board that there were two Board members on the Committee. Also each member of the Board (and Design Committee) was sought out personally by me after the Annual Meeting last year to provide input and guidance. All but one declined. These facts are covered in a set of emails so I hope that they are not up for debate.

We need 34 votes and we will get them only if the members fully understand what is being done and feel that they have been heard. Understanding issues of this sort takes time, which is why all members need to be included now, not later after everything has been agreed to by some small group, no matter how well intentioned that small group may be.

So Dear Board, here is my answer to your question:

I will attend the get-together at 7:00pm on Monday provided that all members of the Association are invited and that it is not a formal meeting of the Board or of the Committee, but merely a neighborhood get-together to discuss possible changes to the Bylaws and CC&Rs. If finding a location is an issue I volunteer the use of my home. My goal would be to develop a wide consensus about needed changes, whatever they may be. We can use the report of the Committee as a starting point. It was developed in the open and has been in plain view for over half a year.

I also think it would be good to discuss at this open forum, where there would be no pressure to make any immediate decisions, other issues of concern such as mowing, payment of dues, and next year's budget. I very much want to avoid the situation we had last year where critical discussions occurred at the Annual Meeting right at the point of decision. It is my view that in a small association like ours that it is better to reach consensus in an open forum before deciding what is to be voted on. If folks are interested, we can do that work on Monday as well.

If the Board does not want to make Monday's meeting open to all, or wants to make it a formal meeting where some individuals have special status because of their membership(s) on the Board or various Committees, then I will not attend.

Instead I will be at my home at 2667 Sunflower Drive where ALL members (AND ALL RESIDENTS) of Sunflower Gardens and James and Tanya of Jamar will be welcome to discuss in an informal manner the various issues we currently face.

Sincerely,

Terry